

Summary of Current District Activities and District Plan:

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation (501C3 paperwork has been submitted) is governed by a Board of Directors who represent all six counties of the District. The officers were selected from the Committee set up to develop the Plan submitted for 2001. The Plan Administrator, Carrie McKillip, Executive Director of the Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CODA), oversees the day to day operation of the Plan, and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

During the past year, under the leadership of Judge Phillip Adler, District 7 accomplishments are numerous. An excellent Plan was established and submitted, attorneys were recruited through a district-wide bar meeting, Articles of Incorporation were submitted for 501 c 3 status, brochures and posters were designed and printed, the District 7 Pro Bono Office was set up, forms and procedures were designed, and most important, services to clients began March 19, 2001. This lengthy list of accomplishments is by no means complete, and none of these or the numerous unmentioned tasks could have been completed without the extraordinary cooperation and dedication of all of the members of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

As the District 7 Pro Bono Plan progresses, it is being monitored in a variety of ways. Quality is being evaluated by surveying both the participating attorneys and the clients at the completion of the case. Since only one case has been completed at this time, no information is yet available to assess. Quantity information on the other hand, is readily available. The District 7 Pro Bono Plan has 66 participating attorneys who, as of May 31, 2001, have accepted assignment of 56 cases. At the completion of these cases, the value and quantity of billable hours will be submitted by the attorney to the District 7 Pro Bono Plan Manager, who will compile them monthly for the Corporation. The District 7 Plan Manager, under the supervision of the District 7 Plan Administrator, does all of the statistics and record keeping.

Based upon the statistics for the first three months of operation, it is apparent that a greater need for free legal services exists than was expected, especially in the area of family law. Fortunately, the first attorney-recruiting event was also more successful than anticipated. As cases become closed, more information will become available on the success, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Plan.

Existing pro bono services in the District were stressed prior to the implementation of the District 7 Pro Bono Plan. Legal Services Organization of Indiana (LSOI) was administering all organized pro bono services prior to that time, either directly, or through the Wabash Valley Senior Center or the Council on Domestic Abuse. Since the inception of services of the District 7 Pro Bono Plan, the number of low-income clients accessing the legal system has increased. The District 7 Plan is working closely with LSOI, and continues to refer eligible clients to existing programs.

Currently, clients are being referred to the District 7 Plan through posters and brochures placed at various locations throughout the six counties of District 7 where low-income populations have access. These agencies and locations include, but are not limited to, mental health agencies, health care facilities, homeless shelters, social service agencies, and governmental entities.

Funding for Plan marketing has been secured through the Wabash Valley Community Foundation. The Vigo County Commissioners and the Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CODA) are donating much of the operating costs. The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation members and attorneys are all donating their time to assist the Plan.

Prior to Plan implementations, clients needing pro bono legal services were accessing limited services through phone contact with LSOI, or personal contact with the Wabash Valley Senior Center or CODA. With the implementation of the District 7 Plan, clients throughout District 7 can drop by the Pro Bono Office, located at the Vigo County Courthouse or contact the Office through a publicized 800 number. Intakes can be done in person with CODA representatives in Vermillion, Parke, Vigo, Clay and Sullivan Counties. In Putnam County, intakes are done in person with the Family Support Services. At intake, the client's legal situation is assessed and their income is screened for qualification. If the client is income eligible and has a legal need requiring an attorney, the intake paperwork is completed. (See Appendix 1 - Flow Chart)

Once the intake for a client is completed, the Plan Manager assigns the case to an attorney who has agreed to participate. Once the case has been accepted, the attorney is sent relevant paperwork. As the case progresses, the District has committed to pay for litigation and out of pocket attorney expenses when needed. All participating lawyers carry their own malpractice insurance.

In addition to providing for expenses, participating lawyers have access to mentoring lawyers experienced in the type of law (mainly family law) that they may not practice on a daily basis. This mentoring list is maintained by the Plan Manager, and is available to any participating attorney. Since most cases received thus far are in the realm of family law, a seminar is being planned for the participating attorneys who do not practice family law on a regular basis.

The Plan Manager maintains contact with the attorneys as cases progress, and maintains the data bases of attorneys and active cases. The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation President sends each attorney a personal thank you letter both when they accept and complete an assigned case. An annual award is also being planned for attorneys participating in the Plan.

The singular problem faced by low-income clients in District 7 is the lack of attorneys who are participating in pro bono cases. This has limited the access to the judicial system for most low-income clients. The District 7 Pro Bono Plan is designed to be a central point of contact for both clients and attorneys—clients who need legal assistance and are income qualified, and attorneys who wish to provide free legal representation. The first three months have proven the need for the service, as well as the willingness of attorneys to do pro bono work when there is administrative support and recognition for their efforts. While there will be modifications to the Plan as it develops, these will be done only after a careful monitoring of all phases of the Plan.

Committee Members:

JUDGE PHILLIP I. ADLER - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

Vigo Superior Court Division 2

Courthouse

33 South Third Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-462-3238

Fax: 812-232-4650

Email: Bufsab2@aol.com

Judge Adler was selected by the Indiana Supreme Court to chair the District 7 Pro Bono Committee and is the presiding President of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

RICHARD BRAMER - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

P. O. Box 83

Sullivan, IN 47882

Phone: 812-268-5832

Fax: 812-268-6624

Email: Ritch96@aol.com

Mr. Bramer is an attorney in Sullivan, Indiana, who received the 1999 Pro Bono Public Award from the Indiana Bar Foundation and serves on the Board of Directors for the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

CHERYL DANBERRY - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

3 East Franklin Street

Suite A

P. O. Box 654

Greencastle, IN 46135

Phone: 765-653-7246

Fax: 765-653-2194

Email: Danberry@ccrct.com

Mrs. Danberry practices law in Putnam County. She is the pro bono attorney for the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Program and has been active in pro bono services. Mrs. Danberry serves on the Advisory Committee of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

NINA ALEXANDER - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

Clay County Prosecutor's Office

609 E. National Avenue

Brazil, IN 47834

Phone: 812-448-9028

Fax: 812-443-1019

Miss Alexander resides in Vermillion County and is the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of Clay County and serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

GARY HANNER - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

101 South Jefferson

P. O. Box 122

Rockville, IN 47872-0122

Phone: 765-569-3122

Fax: 765-569-2260

Email: ghanner@abcs.com

Mr. Hanner is an attorney practicing law in Parke County and has been actively involved in pro bono services. He is currently the attorney for the Parke County Family and Children Services and serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

ROBERT PELL - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

2105 East National

Brazil, IN 47834

Phone: 812-446-2616

Fax: 812-443-0433

Email: bpell@Indiana.net

Mr. Pell is an attorney practicing law in Clay County, has been active in pro bono work and serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

MICHAEL T. ELLIS - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

518 Wabash Avenue

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-234-9000

Fax: 812-234-4323

Email: elo9000@aol.com

Mr. Ellis is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County and is a former Vigo County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and County Council member. Mr. Ellis is presently a Vigo County Public Defender and serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

SALLY GRAY - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

1884 S. 500 West

Greencastle, IN 46135

Phone: 765-653-4863

Fax: 765-653-0222

Email: rsgrey@indy.tds.net

Judge Gray is a former LSOI managing attorney as well as a former Superior Court Judge. She now is a Senior Judge.

Judge Gray serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

ROBERT HELLMANN - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

22 North 5th Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-232-7035

Fax: 812-235-9523

Email: n/a

Mr. Hellmann is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County and is a past State Representative and State Senator in Indiana. Mr. Hellmann serves on the Advisory Committee of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

JEFF LIND - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

511 Wabash Avenue

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-232-6007

Fax: 812-232-6567

Email: jlind@coxlaw.net

Mr. Lind is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County. He is the past Chairman of the IOLTA Committee for the Indiana Bar Foundation. Mr. Lind is also on the Board of the Indiana Bar Foundation and President of the Terre Haute Bar Association. Mr. Lind serves on the Advisory Committee of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

GEOFFREY CREASON - 2 year term; expires 10/1/2001

505 Ohio Street

Terre Haute IN 47807

Phone: 812-232-0092

Fax: 812-232-2826

Email: 99csjclaw@aol.com

Mr. Creason is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County and has been a contract attorney with the Legal Services Organization of Indiana. Mr. Creason serves on the Advisory Committee of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

NELLIE SIMBOL - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

76 Ohio Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-238-2109

Fax: 812-238-9907

Email: n/a

Miss Simbol is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County and is on the State Pro Bono Commission, serves on the Indiana Bar Foundation, and is a past president of the Equal Justice Fund. Miss Simbol is also a contract attorney with the Legal Services Organization of Indiana, a member of the Board of Governors of the Indiana State Bar Association, and serves as Secretary of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

JOHN ROACH - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

33 South 6th Street

Terre Haute, IN 47807

Phone: 812-232-0107

Fax: 812-232-3414

Email: John@MannLawFirm.com

Mr. Roach is an attorney practicing law in Vigo County who is interested in pro bono services and serves as Treasurer of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

JANET CONEY - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002

Market Square Center, 18th Floor

151 North Delaware Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: 317-631-9410
Fax: 317-631-9775
Email: N/A

Miss Coney is an attorney with LSOI who has handled pro bono cases in all the counties in District 7 except Parke. Miss Coney serves on the Advisory Committee of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

BETH TEVLIN - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002
Wabash Valley Community Foundation
2901 Ohio Boulevard
Terre Haute, IN 47803
Phone: 812-232-2234
Fax: 812-234-4853
Email: beth@WVCF.com

Mrs. Tevlin is the Executive Director of the Wabash Valley Community Foundation. Mrs. Tevlin serves on the Advisory Committee and is a community-at-large representative of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

CARRIE MCKILLIP - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002
1400 Hulman
Terre Haute, IN 47802
Phone: 812-234-3441
Fax: 812-232-0870
Email: n/a

Mrs. McKillip is the Executive Director of the Counsel on Domestic Abuse which serves Vigo, Parke, Clay, Sullivan, and Vermillion counties. Mrs. McKillip is the Plan Administrator, serves on the Board of Directors, and is a community-at-large representative of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

HOPE PHILLIPS - 3 year term; expires 10/1/2002
2049 W. 1300 S.
Clinton, IN 47842
Phone: 765-832-3893
Fax: n/a
Email: n/a

Miss Phillips serves on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation

and is a past recipient of pro bono services .

Governance:

Judge Phillip I. Adler of the Vigo Superior Court is the President of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation. Judge Adler was selected by the Indiana Supreme Court. Judge Adler is responsible for convening and facilitating meetings of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has been formed pursuant to Rule 6.5(f) of the Rules of Professional Responsibility. A majority vote of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation members shall determine all issues and decisions presented for a vote.

Judge Adler has appointed subcommittees to address specific areas of the District Plan and will continue to do so when necessary. The subcommittees report to the full District 7 Pro Bono Corporation membership for discussion and approval.

The members of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation will serve for two-year terms, except that initial terms of service shall be staggered (either two or three-year terms) so that not all terms of service will expire the same year. Pursuant to Rule, Judge Adler will be responsible for replacement and succession of members, and selection shall be in compliance with Rule 6.5. Designated within the roster of District 7 Pro Bono Corporation members is each member's term of service and expiration date. (Pg. 4-9)

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation was duly incorporated in the State of Indiana on January 3, 2001 by filing our Articles of Incorporation as a Nonprofit Domestic Corporation which Articles of Incorporation were duly accepted on January 3, 2001. (Appendix 2). The President of our Corporation is the Honorable Phillip I. Adler, our Secretary is Nellie L. Simbol and our Treasurer is John T. Roach III. Our Board of Directors is made up of the following individuals representing at least one representative from each district: Phillip I. Adler, John T. Roach III, Nina Alexander, Carolinn McKillip, Robert A. Pell, Gary Hanner, Richard M. Bramer, Sally Gray, Michael T. Ellis, Hope Phillips, and Nellie Simbol.

We have applied for 501C3 status with the Internal Revenue Service.

3. Plan Administration:

Carrie McKillip serves as the Plan Administrator for the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation. She has been the Executive Director of the Council on Domestic Abuse for the past six years, which serves all of the counties in District 7, except Putnam County. CODA offices in Vigo, Clay, Sullivan, Parke, and Vermillion Counties, which have paid staff personnel at these offices at least two days a week. Mrs. McKillip's employees and volunteers have all been trained in screening and intake procedures for LSOI.

As Plan Administrator, Mrs. McKillip is responsible for keeping accurate records and statistics relative to clients requesting services, clients receiving services, attorneys serving as pro bono advocates, the number and types of cases handled, and the disposition of cases. Also the level of satisfaction from both the clients' and the attorneys' perspectives is monitored. The Plan Administrator and her employees are responsible for the screening and intake of cases and the matching of cases from a roster of pro bono attorneys. The Plan Administrator is responsible for maintaining a roster of attorneys willing to perform pro bono legal services. The Plan Administrator, at least on a quarterly basis, reports statistical information gathered from the previous three months to the District 7 Corporation. She reports any problems she perceives to be occurring, and makes suggestions and recommendations she may have to improve any aspects of the Plan. She also reports on budgetary matters.

CODA, by contract (Appendix 3) with the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation, receives \$7,500.00 per year for their services. This money is funded by the IOLTA grant money received by the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation in January 2001.

Prior Year Progress - 2000:

Once District 7 received the IOLTA grant money from the Pro Bono Commission in January 2001, preparations began to set up the District 7 Pro Bono Office in the Vigo County Courthouse. A desk, filing cabinet, computer and printer, and a phone were secured. The local telephone number is 478-BONO and the toll free number is 866-966-BONO.

Intake and screening forms, pro se forms, case acceptance forms and releases, affidavits of indigency, referral and assignment forms, client and attorney evaluation satisfaction forms, closing forms, and letters were

developed.

On January 17, 2001 Judge Adler sent a letter and a copy of District 7's 2000 Plan to all judges within the District requesting that they review the Plan and become familiar with all aspects. Within that letter he also announced the date of a joint District 7 bar meeting. (Appendix 4).

A letterhead for the Committee (Appendix 5) was designed, as well as a letterhead for the Corporation (Appendix 6) , once the Corporation documents were signed and filed.

The subcommittee for attorney recruitment began planning a District 7 joint Bar Association meeting. A meeting was scheduled for February 28, 2001 at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology. All attorneys and judges within the District were sent a letter of invitation. (Appendix 7). Justice Dickson of the Indiana Supreme Court, Judge Bailey of the Indiana Court of Appeals, Dave Remondini, Counsel to Chief Justice Shepherd and Kelly Davidson attended the February 28th joint bar meeting. Judge Adler spoke to the almost 100 attorneys in attendance giving an impassioned plea for their assistance and participation and briefly outlined the District 7 Pro Bono Plan. Copies of the Plan were available at this meeting for review and inspection. Justice Dickson, Judge Bailey, Dave Remondini, and Kelly Davidson also spoke at the meeting on various topics concerning Pro Bono and IOLTA and encouraged everyone to participate. In her speech that evening, Kelly Davidson said that the District 7 Plan was one of the, if not the best plan, submitted. The meeting was very well attended and very well received. Brochures (Appendix 8), posters (Appendix 9) and Attorney Participation Forms (Appendix 10) were distributed to all in attendance. Approximately fifty attorneys signed up that evening for pro bono participation. Justice Dickson, at the end of the evening, said to Judge Adler, "Phil, I think you have something very special here. This is an amazing turn out and response."

All of our special guests from Indianapolis took brochures and posters for referral and possible distribution to other districts. There was

television coverage of the February 28th joint Bar Association meeting and interviews were conducted by Justice Dickson, committee member ,Nellie Simbol, and Judge Adler.

By mid-March 2001, the District 7 Pro Bono Office was in operation. Telephone lines were operating and the Office was properly staffed. Forms were developed and the Attorney Participation Forms were analyzed and assimilated into the computer for quick access and proper assignment. To date, there are 66 attorneys presently participating in our Plan. (Appendix 11). There have been 56 cases assigned to date, 40 being in the area of Divorce and Family Law.

Since the beginning of the year there have been three board meetings held where various issues have been discussed. Early on, there were road blocks, however, the Corporation believes that they have been turned into stepping stones for equal access to justice. Finally, Judge Adler has held early morning meetings with various board members and subcommittees regarding specific areas of the Pro Bono Plan.

For an accounting of the 2000 grant money, please see the attached June 1, 2001 Treasurer's report. (Appendix 12). The majority of the money spent to date has gone for contractual services to CODA, at a cost of \$625.00 per month since January 2001. Also, a filing cabinet, stamps, telephone, and answering machine have been purchased. There have also been associated printing and monthly telephone bills incurred.

Monitoring Methods:

a. Quality of services provided:

The quality of services provided is being analyzed from the viewpoint of both the client and the pro bono attorney. Client's satisfaction will be measured after their case has been finalized. Written form evaluations are given to each client by the

District 7 Pro Bono Office requesting that they complete the form and return it to the Pro Bono Office.

Pro bono attorneys are asked to complete a pro bono closing document which includes an evaluation of the procedures used, hours spent on the case or Plan, and suggestions for improvement. The District 7 Pro Bono Office will monitor these closing documents to ensure compliance.

All monitoring documents are collected and kept in the District 7 Pro Bono Office and used as a reference for regular district meetings and annual reports.

b. Quantity:

Number of attorneys participating:

A roster of attorneys is maintained by the Plan Administrator in the District 7 Pro Bono Office indicating the number of attorneys willing to serve as a pro bono attorney, the type of cases they are willing to handle, or other pro bono activities they are willing to volunteer for, such as mentoring, presentation to groups, educational programs, etc.

Number of clients served:

Records are maintained relative to requests for services, number of clients financially qualified for pro bono services, number of clients actually served and those who are unable to obtain services. This information is kept at the District 7 Pro Bono Office and collected by the Plan Administrator and is incorporated into periodic and annual reports, as well as discussion at regularly called Corporation meetings.

Number of hours:

Hours spent by pro bono attorneys are compiled from the case closing documents that each pro bono attorney is requested to fill out and return to the Pro Bono Office.

c. How do you or will you record and evaluate costs associated with achieving goals?

With little experience to rely upon, costs of the District 7 Pro Bono Plan is difficult to forecast at this time. The budget presented herein is a realistic estimate. At the end of one year, through simple accounting methods, it will be easy to determine how much money has been spent on the plan. Also at that time, closing documents should accurately reflect the number of volunteer hours attorneys have spent. Dividing the costs of the Plan for the first year by the number of hours volunteered by attorneys for pro bono service, will at the very least, reflect the cost per hour of service. For instance, if within the first year \$25,000.00 is spent on the Plan and 500 volunteer hours have been recorded, the cost would equal \$50.00 per hour for the attorneys' volunteer time. *In considering that the average hourly rate for attorneys within District 7 is \$125.00 per hour, a \$50.00 per hour cost would be a bargain.*

How do you or will you collect and record client stories?

Client stories are collected at the screening and interview session. Also, on the closing form, clients are asked for their comments and suggestions.

Please include any records collected in the past year.

Since our Plan is in its incipient stages, there is no available meaningful data at this time.

Monitoring Results:

To date, there has been only one pro bono case that has been completed. The client has yet to return the Client Satisfaction/Evaluation Form. The attorney's comments were favorable. Once we have more cases completed, we will be in a better position to evaluate our monitoring results.

We have compiled the following statistics:

We have 66 attorneys presently participating in the District 7 Pro Bono Plan.

To date, there have been 56 pro bono cases assigned.

Appendix 13 is a detailed statistical review of the District 7 Pro Bono statistics for the past three months.

We have 19 clients who need attorneys assigned to their cases. This is what we feared and predicted in our 2000 Plan—that is, that the demand for pro bono attorneys will exceed the supply of attorneys available. (See Problem Statement, page 20 of 2000 Plan).

Existing Services, Programs, and Funding Sources:

a. Existing legal services for community:

Currently, the only pro bono legal services available to low income clients in District 7 other than the District 7 Pro Bono Plan are as follows:

- i. Legal Services Organization (LSO) - Low-income clients may make application to LSO of Indiana (based in Indianapolis) for assistance with their legal issues. LSO also has satellite programs in Terre Haute (Vigo County) at the Wabash Valley Senior Center and Hyte Community Center.

Individual Attorney's - a client may find an individual attorney to take a case at no fee. While the Pro Bono Corporation is not aware of cases handled in this fashion, it is conceivable that in the six counties of District 7, this occurs on occasion.

Programs providing pro bono opportunities with support:

Below is a list of resources for low income members in the District 7 area. These providers have or will be given information regarding the District 7 Pro Bono Plan, and are targeted for referral sources.

Crisis Energy Assistance: Township Trustees

Emergency: Area 7 Agency for

Aging

Food Assistance: Catholic Charities,
Salvation Army, etc.

Mental Health: Family Services Assoc.,
Cummins Mental Health,
Hamilton Center

Domestic Violence: Counsel on Domestic
Abuse, Inc. (CODA),
Putnam County Family
Services Association

Health Care: Indigent Care,
Saint Ann's Clinic,
Union Hospital,
Terre Haute Regional
Hospital,
Putnam County Hospital,
Mary Sherman Hospital,
Vermillion Co. Hospital,
Clay County Hospital

Legal Services: Legal Services of
Indiana

c. Other resources in community participating or
targeted for participation:

Emergency Shelter:

Council on Domestic	Victims of Domestic
Abuse, Inc.:	Violence
Lighthouse Mission:	Adult males

Bethany House:	Families and single
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	women
Conner House:	Adult women and their minor children

Gary's Place:	Teenage girls and their children.
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- d. The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has received a grant from the Wabash Valley Community Foundation (awarded to CODA for the District 7 Pro Bono Plan) to market the services. This money was earmarked for printing brochures, posters, and other marketing of the Plan. While this is the only cash funding source that have been secured for the Plan, the Plan has received donations from CODA in staff time, mileage and office space, from the Vigo County Commissioners in phone lines, and a computer from the Vigo County Courts. In addition, all the Corporation officers and members, and participating attorneys, are donating their time to the Plan. Without these donations, the Plan would be nonexistent.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Service/Program Name: Senior Legal Services Project
Legal Services Organization of
Indiana, Inc.

Mailing Address: 321 Ohio Street, Terre Haute,
Indiana 47807

Phone: (812) 234-0753

Contact Person: Sandy Auler

Title: Paralegal/Project Coordinator

Sponsoring Agency: Legal Services Organization of
Indiana, Inc./Legal Services
Corporation; West Central
Indiana Economic Development
District (Area 7 Agency on
Aging)

Service/Program Information:

Target Population: Frail, vulnerable, elderly,
institutionalized and non-
institutionalized low income
persons residing in Area 7

Eligibility Requirements: Persons 60 years of age and

older residing in the 6
counties of Area 7. Must be
LSOI income eligible
For services provided by the
contract attorney.

***Estimate # of Persons**

Served or Impacted: 176 unduplicated eligible
persons and 681 hours (unit of
service) legal assistance
provider time of
which about 140 (80%) will be
lower
income and/or minority persons.
About 100 will acquire skilled
counsel or individual
representation by the paralegal
or contract
attorney.

Service Area: Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan,
Vermillion and Vigo Counties

Type of Service/Program:

***Estimate of Expense**

Per Year: \$50,933

Funding Source(s): Legal Services Corporation:
match:
\$ 2,453.
Legal Services Corporation:
support:\$34,078.
Project Income: \$ 500.
West Central Indiana Economic
Development District (Area 7
Agency on Aging): \$13,902.

*Figures are taken from the Grant Proposal July 1, 2000
through June 30, 2001

Service/program Description:

The Senior Legal Services Project is a fully operative
satellite office of LSOI, exclusively serving the
elderly population residing in the six county area
which comprises Area 7. The Senior Legal Services
Project was established in 1980 through joint efforts

of the Area 7 Agency on Aging and LSOI. Sandy Auler, Paralegal and Project Coordinator has been with the Project since its inception, and Terry R. Modesitt, LSOI Contract Attorney and Supervisor, has been with the Project since 1986. The paralegal works out of her Vigo County office, as well as meeting with clients in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals, nutrition sites and senior centers in the six county service area of Area 7 Agency on Aging. The paralegal is also responsible for a number of community legal education activities presented in each of the six counties. The ultimate goal of the Senior Legal Services Project is to provide quality legal services to eligible older persons in the six county area, and to assist the older person to live independently with dignity as a valued person in the environment of his or her own choice. To ensure that these goals are met, the Project has elected the following priority legal issues, which are set out in the Older Americans Act, on which it has and will continue to focus its efforts:

- Long Term Care
- Income Maintenance
- Health
- Nutrition
- Housing
- Utilities
- Defense of Guardianship
- Planning for Incapacity (includes Life Planning Advance Directives)
- Consumer Issues, and in addition:

Advice and Referral Provided for the Following Issues: Abuse; Neglect; Age Discrimination; Protective Services

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role do they play in the development of the plan?

The Senior Legal Services Project will continue to provide services to the project target population. Individuals meeting eligibility requirements for this program will be referred to this project. The programs will work and plan together to insure that individuals are directed to the appropriate service provider. Additionally, each program will serve as a referral source for the other program.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Service/Program Name : CODA/LSOI Family Law Access Program

Mailing Address: 1400 Hulman Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802

Phone : (812) 234-3441

Contact Person: Carrie McKillip

Title: Executive Director

Service/Program Information:

Target Population: Low income victims of domestic violence needing family law assistance

Eligibility Requirements: 125% of poverty level, victim of domestic violence, and willingness to participate in supportive services

***Estimate # of Persons Served or Impacted:** 100 per year

Service Area: Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo Counties

Type of Service/Program:

***Estimate of Expense Per Year:** Approximately \$5,000 per year in LSOI and CODA Staff time and attorney time

Funding Source(s): CODA and LSOI General Funds

Service/program Description:

Program provides one-on-one intake with a CODA victim advocate who faxes application to LSOI after client begins support group, LSOI then provides attorney for eligible clients, and CODA provides ongoing supportive services, and serves as a liaison between attorney and client

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role do they play in the development of the plan?

The Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CODA) will continue the CODA/LSOI program and will coordinate that program with the District 7 Pro Bono Plan. This coordination will be relatively easy, since CODA Executive Director, Carrie McKillip also serves as the Pro

Bono Plan Administrator, and the CODA Office in the Vigo County Courthouse houses the District 7 Pro Bono Office. Clients eligible and willing to participate in the CODA/LSOI program will continue to be handled through the existing program, while non-eligible clients and clients requiring other types of law services are funneled through the new Pro Bono Plan.

EXISTING SERVICE/PROGRAM

Service/Program Name : Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc.

Mailing Address: Market Square Center, 18th Floor, 151 N. Delaware Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Phone : (317) 631-9410

Contact Person: Ida B. Hayes

Title: Pro Bono Coordinator

Sponsoring Agency: Legal Services Organization

Agency Director: Norman Metzger

Service/Program Information

Target Population: Individuals meeting the LSOI income guidelines (See table next page)

Eligibility Requirements: (See table next page)

***Estimate # of Persons Served or Impacted:** LSOI handled 592 cases in District 7 in 1999

Service Area: District 7

Type of Service/Program:

***Estimate of Expense Per Year:** \$500.00 per case

Funding Source(s): Legal Services Organization of Indiana

Service/program Description:

Mission Statement: To use our resources to provide poor persons with a variety of aggressive, quality legal services which will help them to gain equal access to the courts, legislative bodies and government agencies; empower them to control their lives; and impact

on the major causes and effects of poverty.

How does this organization participate in the coordination of services and what role do they play in the development of the plan?

Legal Services Organization of Indiana continues to serve individuals in District 7 through their program. A member of the

Legal Services Organization staff is on the Board of Directors of the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation. She has assisted with the development of the Plan and will continue to work with District 7 in the development of the Plan and the coordination of district services with Legal Services of Indiana.

LSOI INCOME GUIDELINES (Adopted by LSOI Board 3/10/00)

Rev 3/00	Regular Income Guidelines			150% Extensions		
# in Hshld	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
1	\$220.73	\$869.83	\$10,438	\$301.10	\$1304.75	\$15,657
2	\$270.44	\$1,171.92	\$14,083	\$406.66	\$1,775.88	\$21,095
3	\$340.15	\$1,474.00	\$17,688	\$510.23	\$2,211.00	\$26,532
4	\$409.87	\$1,776.08	\$21,313	\$614.80	\$2,664.13	\$31,970
5	\$479.58	\$2,078.17	\$24,938	\$719.37	\$3,117.25	\$37,407
6	\$549.29	\$2,380.25	\$28,563	\$823.93	\$3,570.38	\$42,845
7	\$619.00	\$2,682.33	\$32,188	\$928.50	\$4,023.50	\$48,282
8	\$688.71	\$2,984.42	\$35,813	\$1,033.07	\$4,476.63	\$53,720
Ea. Add.	\$69.71	\$302.08	\$3,625	\$104.57	\$453.13	\$5,438

8. Current Legal Service Delivery System and the Pro Bono Aspect of the System:

Prior to the implementation of the District 7 Pro Bono Plan, there were limited options for

individuals with legal needs and little to no financial resources. The only pro bono services were available through Legal Services Organization of Indiana (LSOI). These could be accessed by calling an 800 number on Wednesday mornings from 9-12 A.M., and doing a phone intake. As can be imagined due to the volume of need, it was difficult for clients to get through on this line, and many needy clients were denied due to lack of attorneys or conflict of interest.

In addition, the General Line operated by LSOI, elderly clients can access legal services through a program LSOI operates at the Wabash Valley Senior Center in Terre Haute. CODA also does intakes for victims of domestic abuse needing LSOI services in five (5) of the six (6) counties of District 7.

The District 7 Pro Bono Plan, which became fully operational March 19, 2001, enhances the current system in a variety of ways. First, it is apparent from the number of applications received that there was an enormous need that was going unmet. This is demonstrated also by the fact that LSOI is now referring clients to the District 7 Pro Bono Plan that because they do not have enough attorneys. CODA continues to do LSOI intakes for victims of domestic abuse, and only refers to the Pro Bono Plan after the client has been denied by LSOI.

Identifying and screening clients:

District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has posted flyers and distributed brochures throughout the six counties we serve to inform the public of pro bono services. Clients call into the Office or are referred to the Office to set an appointment to determine income eligibility. Once it is determined that the client is income eligible, intake paperwork is completed and release forms are signed. The case is then referred to a participating pro bono attorney. Outreach advocates complete applications for counties served outside of Vigo County to effectively reach each potential client.

Attorney match and referral:

Each client is matched with an attorney according to the type of legal assistance needed. District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has a roster of participating attorneys in each area of law available to the clients. An attorney is contacted regarding each individual case. Once contact is made and a verbal agreement is made between the attorney and District 7 Pro Bono Corporation, the paperwork is faxed to the attorney. A letter is then sent to the client informing them of the attorney that will review their case. Once the attorney meets with the client, he/she reviews the case and determines if they can accept it. The attorney then returns the case acceptance form to the Pro Bono Office stating whether or not they will accept the case.

Litigation expenses and out-of-pocket costs:

A Litigation Expense Review Committee has been formed. If an attorney has litigation expenses or out-of-pocket cost expenses relative to representation in a pro bono case, the attorney contacts the Pro Bono Office advising of said expenses. The Review Committee is contacted for purposes of determining whether or not the litigation expenses or out-of-pocket costs should be paid by the Pro Bono Corporation. To date, we have not had any such inquiries. However, there are approximately 56 pro bono cases presently assigned and pending and we do anticipate that there will be costs associated with pro bono representation. In our 2000 budget, litigation expenses and costs were addressed and money was received for purposes of funding these anticipated expenditures.

Mentoring:

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has established a roster of attorneys who have willingly agreed to be mentors in various areas of the law. These mentors not only assist pro bono attorneys with advice, they also provide forms to be utilized in whatever area of practice they enjoy expertise. The attorneys within District 7 have been most generous with their willingness to serve as mentors and to consult with their fellow attorneys on pro bono cases.

Malpractice insurance:

District 7 has not addressed malpractice insurance for pro bono attorneys in its 2000 Plan or the present plan. There have been no attorneys who have contacted the Pro Bono Office inquiring about malpractice insurance for their representation for pro bono cases.

Administration and record keeping:

The Plan Administrator, Carrie McKillip, is responsible for the administration and record keeping. Records are presently being kept in the Pro Bono Office as well as the statistics.

Recognition of pro bono attorneys:

The Pro Bono Office advises Judge Adler each time an attorney accepts a pro bono case. Judge

Adler then writes a letter of thanks to the participating pro bono attorney. (Appendix 14). Once a case has been successfully completed, Judge Adler is again advised and he again sends out a thank you letter to the participating pro bono attorney. (Appendix 15).

Judge Adler has asked all judges within District 7 to compliment and thank attorneys appearing in pro bono matters. The Corporation will also recognize volunteer attorneys at the end of the year. The Corporation intends to publicize the pro bono efforts of lawyers within the District. In addition, the Corporation intends to hold an awards banquet. Justices from the Indiana Supreme Court, the Indiana Court of Appeals, as well as judges from within District 7 will be invited to attend and recognize pro bono service. All participating pro bono attorneys will be recognized and awards will be given to those lawyers who have demonstrated outstanding service to the area's poor.

Additional support and assistance:

In our 2000 Report, we predicted that the vast majority of requests for pro bono services would involve family law issues. Our statistics so far this year support that prediction. We further predicted that we would not have a sufficient supply of family law attorneys to meet the requested demand, which again has proved to be true. The Corporation believes that one way to increase the number of pro bono volunteers willing to accept family law matters is to educate them in this field of practice. Of course, as previously stated, we do have a roster of family law attorneys who are presently participating as mentors, however, the Corporation believes that more needs to be done to invite attorneys into the family law practice.

A family law seminar is presently being planned by the Corporation with the hope that it can be presented in late summer or early fall of this year.

Experts in the area of family law will conduct the seminar. Those attorneys who sign up and participate will receive 5 free CLE credits, as well as a lunch, with the understanding that in exchange, they agree to accept two family law pro bono cases per year.

The Pro Bono Office is collecting forms for a family law form book. With these books, pro bono volunteers will have access to sample petitions for dissolutions, restraining orders, interrogatories, motions to produce, motions for modification of visitation, custody and support, and petitions for rule to show cause.

The Pro Bono Office is also in the process of purchasing a child support guideline computer program whereby the Pro Bono Office will be able to calculate child support under the state guidelines based upon income information input. This will help the pro bono family law practitioners who do not normally practice in this area to have quick access to recommended child support pursuant to State guidelines.

2001 Annual Plan:

Problem:

As stated in District 7's 2001 Plan, the primary problem and barrier for low income clients accessing the legal system is the limited number of attorneys donating their time to pro bono work. This has been further illustrated in the success of the District 7 Pro Bono Plan since the March 19, 2001 implementation. As of May 31, 2001, 56 cases have been assigned through the Plan. (There are 19 pro bono cases that have been screened and are qualified for our Plan and are waiting to find attorneys willing to accept their cases.) Without the recruiting efforts and support services offered by the plan, 95-99% of these 56 clients would have been denied access to the legal system.

Problem Barrier Worksheet:

Problem identification:

Before 2001, District 7 did not have an established pro bono program for the delivery of free legal services. There is an insufficient number of attorneys in District 7 committed to meeting the legal needs of indigent clients through pro bono services.

Supportive data:

Evidence of this problem lies in the number of individuals calling Legal Services Organization who meet LSOI guidelines for assistance, but who must be rejected due to a lack of resources. Additional evidence of the problem is the number of pro bono attorneys, or lack thereof, on the legal services list for the counties within District 7. LSOI reports having the following number of attorneys within District 7 as follows: Vigo-3, Sullivan-2; Parke-2; Clay-1; Vermillion-1; and Putnam-4.

The percentage of people in poverty in each county within District 7 is as follows: Vigo-15.1%; Putnam-9.3%; Clay-10.7%; Sullivan-12.9%; Parke-12.2%; and Vermillion-11.3% (See Appendix 16).

Further evidence of the problem is the number of individuals contacting Legal Services Organization who report that they cannot find an attorney who will work on a reduced fee basis, or "low bono." Finally, this problem manifests itself in reports from local agencies that clients are unable to obtain free, or reduced fee, legal services.

Finally, there are presently 19 cases waiting that need to be assigned attorneys through the Pro Bono Office.

Recommended actions:

Please refer to this year's progress description, page 9-14.

Additionally, a family law seminar is being planned to entice more attorneys to participate in the area of family law, which appears to be, by far, our area of greatest demand for pro bono services. Another recruitment effort will be held in the fall of 2001. District 7 judges are asked to continue to encourage attorneys to participate in pro bono services.

Coordination:

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation has contracted the services of Council on Domestic Abuse (CODA), and their Executive Director, Carrie McKillip, to administer the pro bono services offered to clients. The responsibilities of CODA include receiving calls, providing intake, referring clients to lawyers, maintaining statistics, and collecting followup evaluation forms. Mrs. McKillip reports statistical information monthly and evaluation information quarterly to the District 7 Pro Bono Corporation.

The District 7 Pro Bono Corporation operates on a committee structure to coordinate activities. Committees and their roles include:

Lawyer Recruitment - Responsible for recruiting and retaining lawyers to refer pro bono cases.

Public Education - Create and maintain a list of speakers and subjects to make presentations to groups and organizations.

Evaluation - Review client and case evaluations to make determinations of quality representation.

Finance - Review budget corporation resources and expenses.

The Committees will receive their tasks from the full Board and report back on their progress or result at regular meetings of the full Board.

The diagram below illustrates the coordination and structure: